

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace paragraph [0009] with the following amended paragraph:

[0009] In an exemplary embodiment of the invention, a pothole protection mechanism is provided for a lift vehicle including a lifting section supported on a vehicle frame. The pothole protection mechanism includes an actuator attached to the lifting section of the lift vehicle, which actuator is displaced between an extended position and a retracted position based on a position of the lifting section. A crank including an engagement member at an upper end is positioned to be engaged by the actuator. The crank includes a slot between the upper end and a lower end. A connector secured to the vehicle frame and engaged with the crank through the slot movably secures the crank to the frame. A coupler link is pivotally secured at a first end to the lower end of the crank, and a pothole protection bar is pivotally secured to a second end of the coupler link and pivotally secured to the vehicle frame. ~~The vehicle frame, the crank, the connector, the coupler link and the pothole protection bar define a five-bar mechanism for actuation of the pothole protection bar.~~

Please replace paragraph [0012] with the following amended paragraph:

[0012] The pothole protection bar is preferably pivoted through an arc substantially limited to 90° between ~~a the~~ use position and ~~a the~~ stowed position ~~via the five-bar mechanism based on the position of the lifting section.~~

Please delete paragraph [0015] in its entirety.

Please replace paragraph [0027] with the following amended paragraph:

[0027] ~~Link one (1) is the~~ The pothole protection bar 22, which is permitted to rotate a maximum of substantially 90° toward the chassis 12 center. No rotation is permitted in the opposite direction. ~~Link two (2) is the coupler link 42, and link three (3) is the crank 34. Link~~

four (4) is represented by the connector 40, which constrains the crank 34 to slide with respect to the connector 40. Finally, link five (5) is the chassis 12, which provides a ground for the mechanism.